



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

APR 22 2002

Dr. Frits H. Pluimers
Chief Veterinary Officer
Ministry of Agric., Nature Management and Fisheries
Room 4205
Post Office Box 20401
2500 EK The Hague
The Netherlands

Dear Dr. Pluimers:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) conducted an on-site audit of the Netherlands' meat inspection system from October 1 through 24, 2001. Enclosed is a copy of the final audit report. Comments by the Netherlands on the draft final audit report have been included as an attachment to the enclosed final audit report.

FSIS was very pleased with your comments of March 14, 2002. FSIS will make every effort to address the general comments noted on the first page, especially those concerning the presentation and format of the audit report and the uniformity and standardization of the audit process and the auditors. FSIS was also grateful that you have made the noted adjustments to the Dutch meat inspection system in response to the aforementioned audit and taken the indicated corrective and preventive actions.

If you have any questions regarding the audit or need additional information, please contact me by telephone at (202) 720-3781, by fax at (202) 690-4040, or by e-mail at sally.stratmoen@fsis.usda.gov. You may also contact Richard F. Brown by telephone at (202) 690-2679, by fax at (202) 690-4719, or by e-mail at richard.brown@fsis.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sally Stratmoen
Chief, Equivalence Section
International Policy Staff
Office of Policy, Program Development
and Evaluation

Enclosure

cc: Inge Hamid, Agric. Attaché, Royal Netherlands Embassy
Mary Revelt, Minister/Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, USEU/Brussels
Joerg Niederberger, Agric./Consumer Affairs, EU Mission to the US, Wash, DC
Philip Letarte, Agric. Counselor, FAS, U.S. Embassy, Copenhagen
John Wilson, Area Officer, FAS
Ron Hicks, Acting Associate Administrator, FSIS
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Country File (FY 2001 1st Audit - Netherlands)

FSIS:OPPDE:IPS:ES:Rbrown:bw:4/18/20:690-2679:Netherlands FY01 1st audit